

SGA seeking biweekly paychecks for student workers

By Alfredo Norberto
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association has passed a resolution supporting biweekly paychecks for students who work part-time for the university.

Resolution 18, passed unanimously at the Jan. 24 SGA meeting, calls for changing payment of student employees--part-timers and work-studies--from monthly to biweekly. It also calls for at least two members of the SGA to speak to administrators about the proposal.

The resolution notes that although part-timers work fewer hours than full-timers, they have the same financial burdens. Stretching their paychecks over a month places part-timers in a difficult situation.

SGA Secretary Monica Villarreal introduced Resolution 18 on behalf of Alex Salinas, who works part time as a peer mentor with the STING Success program.

Salinas got the idea from his boss, who told him how the UT-El Paso student government lobbied and got the school to change payment to part-time staff to a biweekly basis.

"I got tremendous feedback from a lot of our co-workers who are part-time employees," Salinas told the SGA. "They told me, 'Where do I sign' [a petition] right away."

Salinas says he was encouraged to present the issue to the SGA by Dean of Students Mark Fuentes-Martín.

In other business, the SGA Executive Board passed a resolution recommending for



Alex Salinas

See 'SGA,' Page 7

Group to students: Register to vote

By Ildefonso Ortiz
Tiempo Nuevo Editor

Beyond, a student organization, is helping UTB/TSC students register to vote.

Vicenta Fernández, a business management senior and president of Beyond, said that although Beyond is not setting up any voter registration booths on campus for the March 12 primary elections, members are visiting students in class to encourage them to register.

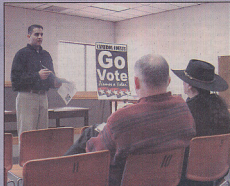
"We ask the professor for a few minutes of their class time and make a little presentation about voter registration and pass out registration cards," Fernández said.

So far, the club, whose purpose is to promote better citizenship, has visited four classes and registered about 50 people.

As the primary elections near, the Cameron County Elections Administrator Robert S. Mendoza is also trying to boost voter turnout.

Mendoza, who also teaches a government class at UTB/TSC, held a press conference Jan. 25 to ask for the media's support in increasing voter turnout.

"We want to create good publicity for the upcoming elections,"



CORIN ASSAULT/STILLMAN

Cameron County Elections Administrator Robert S. Mendoza discusses the upcoming primary elections during a press conference Jan. 25 in the Cameron County Courthouse.

Mendoza said. In the upcoming March 12 primaries, 80 Democrats will vie for 46 positions and 48 Republicans will seek 28 positions. The positions range from U.S. senator and Texas governor to county judge

and constable.

Mendoza said there will not be any polling booths for early voting on campus for the primaries; however, there will be for the general

See 'Election,' Page 4

UT Law School targets South Texas students

By John Strubelt
Collegian Editor

The University of Texas School of Law is looking for prospective students from South Texas.

This point was driven home by William C. Powers Jr., dean of the UT School of Law, who met with UTB/TSC students interested in pursuing a career in law Jan. 29 at the Gorge boardroom.

"You all thinking about law school, coming to law school--especially coming to UT Law School--is an important, many things for our

school," Powers said. "This is the start of something that is simple but very crucial. That is, we want you to come to UT Law School. We

want to get more people from this part of the state. We want to get more people from UT-Brownsville."

The UT School of Law is looking to



William Powers

develop strong ties with the public colleges in South Texas and, in particular, the Valley.

"In addition to getting people from this part of the state, [we want to develop] ways of working so that when students come here, they think this is a way of advancing and progressing on their careers at our law school, other law schools or other graduate programs," Powers said.

Powers highlighted several ways in which to accomplish this, such as simply visiting South Texas institu-

See 'Law,' Page 3

On Campus

Briefs

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from 2 to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the South Hall foyer. Free T-shirts and refreshments will be given. Remember to get well and bring a photo ID. Donors must weigh more than 110 pounds. For more information, call Student Health Services at 544-8951 or 544-3896.

Tuesday is the deadline to sign up for the annual **Mr. Amigo Chorro Days Golf Cart Parade**, which will take place at 9 a.m. Feb. 28. Although there is a limited number of golf carts, participants may use scooters or walk. There will be a meeting to discuss the details of the parade as soon as all participants register. Pick up a registration form in Tandy 207. For more information, call Alma G. Garcia or Rene Sayas at 983-7586.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, sponsored by the Accounting Society and Paula Garcia, will offer free tax assistance and electronic filing services from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and from 3 to 7 p.m. on Fridays in Rustenberg Rooms 210 and 166. The service ends April 15. For more information, visit the organization's Web site at <http://rtmain.utb.edu/access-city/via.htm>.

The Learning Assistance Center will conduct the following Study Skill Workshops this week: "Study Smarter," 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, and "Note-Taking Tips," 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday. Both workshops will be in North Hall 123. No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, call the center at 544-8208.

There will be an SGA meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Faculty and Staff Dining Room, located in the Student Center. For more information, call 983-7254 or send an e-mail to Ana Perez at ana_b_perez@yahoo.com.

Anita W. Robboy, a Boston lawyer specializing in family law, will talk about marriage and aftermarriage

on the radio program "Society Under Fire," which airs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday on KMBH-FM (88.9). Robboy is the author of "Aftermarriage: The Myth of Divorce-Unspoken Marriage Agreements and Their Impact on Divorce." David Pearson, associate professor of Social Sciences, hosts the show.

The International Student Organization and Student Activities will sponsor "Celebration of Chinese New Year," from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the gazebos. Activities include Chinese horoscope explanations and a brief presentation on the tradition of the Chinese New Year. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Thelma Sullivan at 983-7092.

Join-A-Club Day will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 14 at the Pison. This is a great opportunity for your organization to recruit new members. Deadline to reserve a table is Feb. 11. Five points will be awarded toward the Student Union Office Space points if your group participates. For more information, call the office of Student Activities at 544-8264.

The Scorpion Democrats need volunteers for the March 12 primary elections. For more information, call Nick Cordova at 550-0105 or send him an e-mail at nick18@planetronline.com, or call Amy Davila at 551-1719.

Entries for the Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest are due at noon Feb. 20 in SET-B 2.454, the Mathematics Department office. The contest is open to UTB/TSC students. Essay winners will be announced Feb. 27. The topic for this year's essay is "Racism is declining in America, but class divisions remain." Defend or oppose. The paper should be two typed, double-spaced pages with at least two sources. For more information, contact Deborah Nanrez-Davis at 574-6636 or Jeffrey Coleman at 544-5045.

The Collegian Spring 2002 Publication Schedule

Issue No.	Publication Date	Ad Deadline
19	Monday, Feb. 11	Monday, Feb. 4
20	Monday, Feb. 18	Monday, Feb. 11
21	Monday, Feb. 25	Monday, Feb. 18
22	Monday, March 4*	Monday, Feb. 25
March 11-16 Spring Break (no publication)		
23	Monday, March 18	Monday, March 4
24	Monday, March 25	Monday, March 18
March 27-29 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention (no publication)		
25	Monday, April 8	Monday, March 25
26	Monday, April 15	Monday, April 8
27	Monday, April 22	Monday, April 15
28	Monday, April 29**	Monday, April 22

*Spring Break issue

**Graduation/Final Exams issue



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On Campus

College courses show students how to steer through crises

By Christina Lee Knauss
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Getting into a car accident without having auto insurance.

Having an overdraft checking account and bouncing the rent check.

Testing positive for drugs while interviewing at a big company.

Life's little mess-ups can happen to anybody, but for young adults, they could derail lives.

Take Derek Watson, 20, recently dropped from the University of South Carolina football team after his arrest on marijuana possession charges.

The Backstreet Boys' A.J. McLean, 24, almost ruined his singing career when his drinking and partying forced him into rehab. His singing mate, Nick Carter, 21, was just

arrested after an argument with a woman in a nightclub.

Erin Brockovich, now a legal crusader, found herself divorced with young kids and poor by the time she was 27.

Some people think of the teen years as the time when young people make the bad decisions that mess up their lives. But a lot of that bad decision-making happens at age 20 and beyond.

The challenge is to help 20-somethings avoid the pitfalls in the first place.

Experts traditionally have not paid a lot of attention to the specific problems of this age group. But that has started to change.

Since 1996, the University of South Carolina has offered "University 401," to help juniors and seniors head off the problems of making the transition from college to the "real world."

Rehabilitation centers offer outpatient drug and alcohol counseling specifically for young adults, and a recent self-help book, "Quarterlife Crisis," addresses the pitfalls of life in one's 20s and how to avoid them.

"We see a lot of people in that age range who are getting themselves in trouble because they haven't changed their college ways," said Michael Hedgecock, who manages the assessment and referral team at Richland Springs Behavioral Health Service of Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, S.C. "They haven't found the job they want, they're still trying to live the college lifestyle, and it's not getting them anywhere."

As a result, many 20-somethings turn to drugs and alco-

Law
Continued from Page 1

to encourage students who are interested in attending law school and provide them with the information they require.

The UT School of Law is also developing a program that will help increase the number of South Texas students attending the institution.

"We have committed ourselves, as a start, to have 15 slots ... for people that have graduated from the five public institutions in South Texas and the Valley," Powers said.

While these 15 positions will be very competitive, Powers ensured that this is a good first step to developing ties with South Texas. Those students involved in this program would also start off with basic scholarships

between \$2,000 and \$2,500, he said.

"We're serious about this," he said. "We want to work with the faculty here. We want to work with the administration here and get more students from out of Brownsville to go to UT Law School."

Although the deadline for applying to the UT School of Law was Feb. 1, Powers said the law school would be more than willing to work with UTB students and waive this deadline. However, applications should nonetheless be turned in as soon as possible.

UTB/TSC's Division of Academic Affairs will be accepting applications. Any students interested should contact Ruth Ann Ragland, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, at 983-7380.

Campus Police Report

One hit-and-run, three reports of found property, a disturbance, and burglar alarm were among the incidents reported between Jan. 21 and Jan. 27 by Campus Police.

At 4:45 p.m. Jan. 22, a BMW and a Ford F-150 collided on Ridgely Road. After the accident, the driver of the BMW left the scene. However, the driver of the F-150 was able to write down the BMW's license-plate number.

On Jan. 23, a wallet was found in the library's Math Lab.

On Jan. 24, a purse was found in the Life and Health Sciences building. Later the same day, a briefcase was found in Duffley Plaza, Room 239.

At 5:30 p.m. Jan. 24, Campus Police received a call in regard to a disturbance in the library. The disturbance was actually a heated confrontation between a library employee and his former classmate. The former classmate approached the employee and asked if he had been speaking "behind his back," and also if he wanted to "step outside and settle it like men." A third party then attempted to end the confrontation by pushing the two apart. The instigator accused the third party of assault, and suggested contacting Campus Police. The three men agreed to no longer confront each other and no charges were filed.

On Jan. 26, Campus Police received a report from American Legion regarding an activated burglar alarm. No further information was available.

—Compiled by Lily Kuerpe

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On Campus

Election

Continued from Page 1

elections in November.

"For early voting the two weeks before, we have a smaller list of polling places than we do in the general election," Mendoza said. "I anticipate that later this year when we have the [general] election in the fall, that's when we would have places like UTB."

He said his department did not have an early voting place on campus because they would also have to have one at Texas State Technical College to target students as a group.

"You are focusing in on certain groups and we really didn't do that for the primary election, we just made it in general," Mendoza said. "We wanted to reach out to the community. Now in the fall it will be a little more focused into the groups like the students. We go to all the high schools. We have them all compete for the highest percentage of voter turnout. ...We antici-

pate having an early voting site in UTB at least for a day."

He said another reason for limited early voting places is limited financial resources.

"Another factor in determining the early voting sites is money," Mendoza said. "And that's another reason why we don't set up mobile early voting sites for every single election. The cost is thousands of dollars. We can't afford to do that all the time. Our resources are limited."

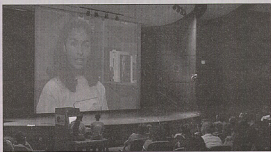
Mendoza stressed the deadline for voter registration, adding that help from the media in getting the word out is greatly appreciated since his office is short on time and staff.

"The deadline for registration is Feb. 11 so help us out by letting people know," Mendoza said.

He said there are about 150,000 registered voters in Cameron County.

In the 1998 gubernatorial election, voter turnout was 26 percent.

Exploring Alaska



A.J. RICH/COLLEGE

Christian Gonzalez (on the screen) broadcasts live via satellite from Alaska to students from San Benito's Berta Cabaza Middle School at the SET-B Lecture Hall last Wednesday. Gonzalez, a San Benito High School senior, was selected to participate as a student arguer with the JASON Project to explore Alaska's environment. More

than 10,000 Valley students will be on the UTB/TSC campus for two weeks of live broadcasts through Friday, according to a press release from Mary Jane Shands, local project director. The JASON Project is a multi-disciplinary education program that gives teachers and students the opportunity to virtually explore distant locales.

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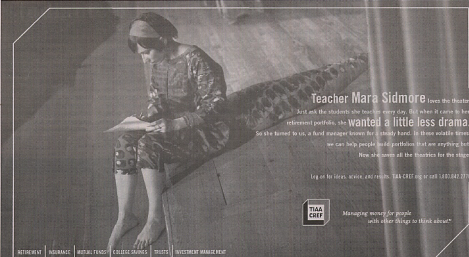
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For more information, call
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On Campus

Courses

Continued from Page 3

bol as a buffer against the pressures of the job market, Hedgecock said.

"I think they start to hit roadblocks, can't get into a profession they want, maybe aren't willing to move, and that level of frustration starts to build and mount," Hedgecock said. "They fall into this kind of depressed cycle where they don't know what to do, where to turn."

Hedgecock said some 20-somethings realize the need to go into rehab because of drug-taking at many big companies.

Richland Springs offers an intensive individual outpatient counseling for young adults, as well as programs that help patients learn job skills and evaluate career goals.

Being faced with many new responsibilities often can cause 20-somethings to increase risky behavior they might have started earlier in life.

"Many of them started making poor choices in high

school or early college—using alcohol, marijuana, other drugs," said Jack Claypoole, executive director of the Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council. This is comfortable behavior for them, and they simply go on with it, even though now they've got to figure out what to do with their lives. It's the question of, 'At what point am I supposed to grow up?'" Claypoole said the council offers a variety of programs for young adults, based on each client's needs.

"University 401" at the University of South Carolina covers preparing for job interviews, building resumes, finances and budgeting, and dealing with relationships.

Keith Davis, professor of psychology, has taught the course four times.

"The basic idea is to look at things that students need to do before they end their college careers," Davis said. "The goal is to answer the questions 'Who am I and what do I want to do?'"

Davis said the course also helps 20-somethings learn

about their place in the larger society after graduation. Civic responsibilities, such as voting and volunteer work, are stressed.

"The most important thing is to know you're not alone, that it's OK to have problems in your 20s," said Abby Wilner, a 26-year-old who wrote "Quarterlife Crisis" with former *Mademoiselle* magazine writer Alexandra Robbins. "You're probably abnormal if you don't experience some kind of anxiety."

Wilner, who majored in psychology at Washington University in St. Louis, said she decided to write the book after discovering a lack of research material about people in their 20s.

"There were plenty of studies about adolescence and about midlife but nothing about this age group," Wilner said. "And 20-somethings are a unique group with our own problems. It's a huge transition. Unlike midlife and other transitions where it's just a crisis of self-identity, this one also involves a whole shift in environment, along with the

identity crisis."

In their book, Wilner and Robbins talk to a variety of 20-somethings, who discuss their feelings of alienation and anxiety. The book also features suggestions on how to deal with everything from financial to relationship problems.

The book has spawned a popular Web site: <http://www.quarterlifecrisis.com>—which Wilner maintains. The site offers links to sites about finances, apartment hunting, job and relationship issues, as well as message boards where visitors can dis-

cuss the issues.

Davis said 20-somethings also need to realize that there's nothing wrong with them if they don't know exactly what to do with their lives.

"One of the things I tell students is that there are plenty of people who took well into their 50s to be clear about who they were and what they wanted to do," Davis said. "Look at Martin Luther and [Mohandas] Gandhi. Creative and almost revolutionary figures have taken a long time to sort out who they were. It's not a sign of failure to take a while."

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On Campus

SGA
Continued from Page 1

approval of an official hand sign to cheer on UTR/TSC teams. The proposed sign consists of the ring, middle and index fingers bent inward and the thumb and pinky stretched to imitate a scorpion.

Asked about the popular sign that many students currently use, members of the SGA said it is not official and would be too difficult to do by the spirit leaders because it requires the use of both hands.

--SGA President Ana Perez announced that the Student Activities Office would sponsor a contest open to all students to design the official scorpion mascot for UTR/TSC. The winner would receive a \$250 cash prize.

--Guest speaker Douglas Fernier, director of the library, reported on the new computers in the library. He said the library has received a grant to buy 60 new computers that are being placed in the former study area on the first floor. Computers equipped with software for visually disabled students also have been placed in the library. Additional computers for catalog access will be installed on the second floor.

Fernier also spoke of a new

wireless network being installed in the library.

Sergio Martinez, lower division representative for the School of Business, asked Fernier whether the wireless network would be available to students on their own laptops.

The library director replied that it would be probable since this measure would open up more units in the computer labs and grant access to more people.

Fernier also addressed the problems many students are having with the printing cards. He said the library has received bids to improve the service. He said finalists for the bids are Icon, the present provider of the printing cards, and Xerox.

--Maria del Carmen Gonzalez, upper division representative for the College of Liberal Arts, was appointed graduate Liberal Arts representative. Mario Gil was appointed to replace Gonzalez as the upper division representative. Both were sworn in by Perez.

--The SGA amended its funding request for a trip to the Conference of Student Government Associations from \$1,200 to \$2,000. The money would pay for five members of the SGA to attend the convention planned for Feb. 23-24 in College Station.

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Tiempo Nuevo

Grupo a estudiantes: Regístrense para votar

Por **Idelfonso Ortiz***Editor del Tiempo Nuevo*

Beyond, una organización estudiantil, está ayudando con el reclutamiento de votantes.

Vicenta Fernández, una estudiante de negocios de último año y presidenta de Beyond, dijo que aunque no registra para votantes en el campus para las elecciones primarias de marzo 12, ellos están ayudando a incrementar el número de votantes registrados.

"Les pedimos a los profesores algunos minutos de su tiempo de clase y hacemos una pequeña presentación sobre el registro para votantes y repartimos tarjetas de registro", dijo Fernández.

Hasta ahora el club, cuyo propósito es promover mejores ciudadanos, ha visitado cuatro salones y registrado cerca de 50 personas.

Mientras las elecciones para las candidaturas políticas se acercan, Robert S. Mendoza, el administrador de elecciones del Condado de Cameron trata de incrementar el número de votantes.

Mendoza, quien también encabeza una clase de gobierno en UTB/TSC, sostuvo una conferencia de prensa el 25 de enero para pedir el apoyo de

la prensa para incrementar la respuesta de los votantes.

"Queremos crear buena publicidad para las próximas elecciones", dijo Mendoza.

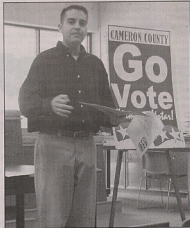
En las próximas elecciones de precalendarios se llevarán a cabo el 12 de marzo, 80 demócratas competirán por 46 posiciones y 48 republicanos competirán por 28 posiciones. Las posiciones varían de senador y gobernador de Texas a juez del condado y alguacil.

Mendoza dijo que no habrá módulos electorales en el campus para votar antes de las elecciones primarias; pero sí habrá módulos para las elecciones de noviembre.

"Para las votaciones tempranas dos semanas antes, tenemos una lista más pequeña de los módulos electorales que la que tenemos para las elecciones generales", dijo Mendoza. "Anticipo que este año cuando llegamos las elecciones [generales] en el otoño, ahí es cuando podríamos tener lugares como UTB".

El dijo que su departamento no tuvo un módulo de votación temprana en el campus porque tendrían que tener uno en Texas State Technical College para centrarse en los estudiantes como grupo.

"Te enfocamos en ciertos gru-



Robert S. Mendoza, administrador de elecciones para el Condado de Cameron, platica con miembros de la prensa sobre las formas para incrementar la respuesta de los votantes en el condado para las próximas elecciones primarias.

pos y no hicimos eso en estas elecciones primarias, nada más lo hicimos en general", dijo Mendoza. "Quisimos

alcanzar a la comunidad. En el otoño será un poco más enfocada hacia los grupos como los estudiantes. Vamos

a todas las preparatorias. Hacemos que compitan por el porcentaje más alto de votantes."

Anticipamos tener un módulo de votación temprana en UTB por lo menos un día".

El dijo que otra razón por el número limitado de lugares para la votación temprana es la limitación de recursos financieros.

"Otro factor que determina los módulos de votación temprana es dinero", dijo Mendoza. "Y esa es otra razón por la que no tenemos lugares de votación temprana para cada elección. El costo está en los miles de dólares. No tenemos suficiente para hacerlo todo el tiempo. Nuestros recursos son limitados".

Mendoza enfatizó la fecha límite para el registro de votantes, añadiendo que la ayuda de la prensa en difundir la palabra será muy agradecida ya que su oficina está limitada en personal y tiempo.

"La fecha límite es el 11 de febrero así que ayúdenos haciéndolo saber a la gente", dijo Mendoza.

El dijo que hay cerca de 150,000 votantes registrados en el Condado de Cameron.

En la elección para la gubernatura de 1998, el porcentaje de votantes fue de 26 por ciento.

Escuela de leyes busca estudiantes del Valle

Por **John Strubelt***Editor del Collegian*

La Escuela de Leyes de la Universidad de Texas está buscando futuros estudiantes del Sur de Texas.

El punto fue rescatado por William C. Powers Jr., decano de la Escuela de Leyes de UT, quien se reunió con estudiantes de UTB/TSC interesados en una carrera en leyes el 29 de enero en el salón de conferencias Gorgas.

"Todos ustedes pensando en la escuela de leyes, venir a la escuela de leyes —especialmente venir a la escuela de leyes de UT— es algo importante y viable para nuestra escuela", dijo Powers. "Eso es el principio de algo que es sim-

ple pero crucial. Es decir, queremos que vengan a la Escuela de Leyes de UT. Queremos conseguir más personas de esta parte del estado. Queremos más personas de UT-Brownsville".

La Escuela de Leyes de UT está buscando incrementar sus conexiones con los colegios públicos en el Sur de Texas. En particular, el Valle.

"Aparte de conseguir gente de esta parte del estado, [queremos crear] formas de trabajar para que cuando los estudiantes vengan aquí, piensen que es una forma de avanzar y progresar sus carreras en nuestra escuela de leyes, otras escuelas de leyes, u otros programas de postgrado", dijo Powers.

Powers señaló varias formas

en la que los estudiantes puedan hacer eso, como simplemente visitar instituciones del Sur de Texas para motivar a los estudiantes que estén interesados en atender escuelas de leyes y entregarles la información que requieren.

La Escuela de Leyes de UT está también diseñando un programa que ayudará a incrementar el número de estudiantes del Sur de Texas que visitan la institución.

"Nos hemos comprometido, como un principio, a tener 15 puestos... para personas que se han graduado de los cinco institutos en el Sur de Texas y en el Valle", dijo Powers.

Mientras estos 15 puestos serán muy reducidos, Powers

aseguró que éste es un buen paso para crear buenos lazos con el Sur de Texas. Esos estudiantes inscritos en este programa conseguirán con becas básicas entre \$2,000 y \$2,500, dijo.

"Somos serios sobre esto", dijo él. "Queremos trabajar con el profesorado de aquí. Queremos trabajar con la administración de aquí y conseguir que más estudiantes de Brownsville vayan a la Escuela de Leyes de UT".

Aunque la fecha límite para solicitar se aceptado en la Escuela de Leyes de UT fue el primero de febrero, Powers dijo que la escuela de leyes estaría más que dispuesta a ayudar a los estudiantes de UTB e ignorar la fecha límite.

Pero las solicitudes deberían de ser entregadas lo más pronto posible.

La División de Asuntos Académicos de UTB/TSC estará aceptando solicitudes. Cualquier estudiante interesado deberá comunicarse con Ruth Ann Ragland, vice rectora asociada para Asuntos Académicos al 983-7380.

**El Collegian
busca voluntarios.
Para mayores
informes llamar
al 544-8263.**

Viewpoint

Could you please super-size that lawsuit for me?

By Alfredo Norberto

Columnist

Overeating seems to be the bane of many of us. I recently started a serious effort to watch what I eat so I could lose some weight. It has been hard, but not as hard as I thought it would be. Rice cakes aren't that bad. I think there's a pool going to see how long I last. As a friend put it, "it's like chewing on Styrofoam!"

I was feeling rather proud that I had not reverted to my former unhealthy-eating self when I saw something on the news that baffled me. Some legal and nutritional experts are saying that the fast-food industry could face lawsuits because of the role it has played on 61 percent of Americans' being overweight. The point these experts are trying to get across is that the huge medical costs of these obesity problems will one day force people to sue this industry, much like smokers did to the tobacco industry.

It occurred to me at that moment, as I tried to swallow a piece of rice cake, that we are entering the legal twilight zone. It seems that common sense and responsibility are becoming harder to find than record deals for Mariah Carey. I understand that finding a scapegoat is a popular pastime, but are we going a bit too far? Can we really blame the food industry because we can't moderate how we eat? In "The Simpsons," Homer complains to Marge that she has let him get too fat, and she quickly replies, "Hey, I'm not the one who put butter in your coffee." And that is the question we face here: Who put the butter in our coffee? Look in the mirror, fatty.

We are a nation of excess; it is our way of life. We believe in dreaming big and going for the brass ring, so why wouldn't this apply to the way we eat? Moderation is a four-letter word when it comes to food. Look at some of the stuff we have. The other day I stopped at a gas station to get some water and gum, and I happened to pass by the soda fountain. They had this 89-ounce cup, rather bucket, of soda for less than \$2. As if the stuff didn't have enough sugar; who needs it in those quantities? I guess if you need to put a bear in a diabetic coma, it might come in handy.

The same could be said for those cinnamon buns they sell at the mall. You know the ones I'm talking

about, the ones that smell so good, but have enough calories and fat to sustain a small village in outer Mongolia for a month.

We willingly shell out our hard-earned cash for these products and consume them. So, why should we blame them for our obesity? We know these things make us fat; it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure this stuff out. We can see it as clear as the inside of a fried chicken bucket after the grease makes it translucent. We willingly go to these merchants, knowing they deep fry, chocolate cover, secret sauce and double meat their products and still buy them. Nobody puts a gun to your head and makes you order the quadruple cheeseburger with extra bacon and grease drippings deluxe. We go to all-you-can-eat buffets and try to "beat" the place by stuffing ourselves until we cry.

We have the unhealthiest diet on the planet, but we love it! We learn our eating habits at home, and, yes, they can be unlearned, but it's hard. If your folks are vegetarians, more than likely you will be one too. The same would apply to junk-food people. The problem comes when we hit old age (or sooner for some of us) and all the late-night runs to get that food catch up. Clogged arteries, colon cancer, diabetes, ulcers and a plethora of other lovely conditions are more of a sure thing than beating an amoeba at Nintendo. This is when our other love—passing the buck—kicks in. We want to find someone to blame for all of these problems. We fail to see that our unhealthy eating habits are to blame, not the people who supplied us with the food. It is ridiculous and childish to do so. What's next? Are drunken drivers going to start suing liquor and motor companies because they made the beer and car that made them run over people?

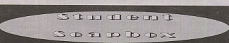
For the first time in a long time I seem to be taking responsibility for my former eating habits. I was the one who asked them to deep-fat fry my salad to make it yummy, and I will deal with the problems that will bring. I know I still have time to curtail some of these problems, so I'm doing so. Because, frankly, I would be too embarrassed to go in front of a judge and jury and tell them I am suing a fast-food company after my blood type changed to "gravy" because I couldn't keep my hands off the deep-fried oyster burgers.

Letter to the Editor

I want to commend your staff [on] the article in today's Collegian about the number of men in college ("Male college students' numbers dwindling," Jan. 28). That article was extremely interesting and beneficial. Granted that it was not written by anyone on your staff, it was still a very wise choice to include it in The Collegian.

Please incorporate more articles like that one in future issues. It would truly give me a reason to pick up the paper and read it. Honestly, that whole horseshoe thing wastes paper and a valuable section of the paper that could be used for other informative articles.

Aylin Raya
Senior criminal justice major



Who is responsible for Americans being overweight, fast-food restaurants or the individuals?

"I believe it falls on the individuals. If they were unhappy with their own bodies, they would be willing to do something about it."

—Rey Vasquez
Junior psychology major

"Individuals, definitely. It's a person's choice to eat, not to eat or overeat."

—Rebecca Gutierrez
Sophomore engineering major

"That's easy, the individual. The individual should take care of themselves. It's a preference. You prefer so

eat fast food, so that's what you're going to get."

—Oscar Rivera
Junior education major

"I believe it's Americans. We're the world's largest consumers of everything. We eat more than anybody else; we drink more than everybody else; smoke more than everybody else and drive the largest cars. We need everything fast and now. Pretty much, we do it to ourselves."

—Thomas Gómez
Senior history major

—Compiled by Josie Chávez

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters for *The Collegian* can be sent to:

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80 Fort Brown
Brownsville, Texas 78520
e-mail: collegian@utb.utb.edu
phone: (956) 544-8263
fax: (956) 544-3836

All letters must be typed, saved on disk and no longer than 250 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter writer or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Collegian are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Collegian or UTH/TSC administrators. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and content.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A&E Briefs

"Night of a Thousand Notes," the Student Fund-raising Concert, will take place at 8 p.m. Feb. 12 at the SET-B Lecture Hall. General admission is \$5.

The annual Faculty Exhibition will open with a reception at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14 in the Richardson Art Gallery. It will feature the work of UTB/TSC full-time professors Carlos G. Gomez, Nancy Seight, Joan E. Price and George Lorio. The exhibit closes March 8. Admission is free. Tentative gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Additional hours will be posted soon. For more information, call the Fine Arts Department at 544-8247.

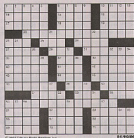
The University Cinema Club will present "The Koyaanisqatsi," directed by Jay Breuer, at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 in SET-B 2-548. Admission is free.

The Terry Tania Jazz Combo will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 18 at the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$3.

—Compiled by A.D. Rocha

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Family men
4 Quare
10 Laker
14 Tally marks
15 Lament, a/c
17 Throat clearing sound
18 Wile
19 Older eggs
20 Cakes & loaves
21 Remotely drive
22 Cook around the truck
23 Nocturnal insect
27 Highest quality
28 Mass change
29 Mental health
30 Patch repair
31 Tense or motion
34 Extensive
35 Unpleasant
40 Domesticated
41 Historic period
42 Knockout gas
43 Native Indians
44 Consumed to
45 Felt
46 Maracas
47 Mashed
48 Woodshed
50 ... gas for
51 Remotely
52 Motion
53 No side
54 28 on
55 Descended period
57 icy coating
59 Widespread
60 Legal defense
61 Quaternary
62 And
63 Who is candidate
64 Vicious train
65 Discharged
66 Cuts
67 Country road
68 T1



15/20/02

Solutions

1. Family men
4. Quare
10. Laker
14. Tally marks
15. Lament, a/c
17. Throat clearing sound
18. Wile
19. Older eggs
20. Cakes & loaves
21. Remotely drive
22. Cook around the truck
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61. Quaternary
62. And
63. Who is candidate
64. Vicious train
65. Discharged
66. Cuts
67. Country road
68. T1

Advertise in The Collegian.
Call 544-8263 for the
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THE
ENLIGHTENED ONESTELL YOU WHAT TO
DO...

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your favorite sensitive book will be made into a movie this year. Sadly, it will turn into a cop buddy flick starring Carrot Top and a wise-cracking sea bass that sounds like Sammy Davis Jr.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Ever wonder why the word abbreviation is so long?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When reading our horoscopes, you will laugh. If not, that doesn't mean we are a waste of time and space.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Install a device in your car that makes it sound like the space cars from "The Jetsons." You will make the

world a better place.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Mary had a little lamb. Jack and Jill went up the Hill and Cinderella found her prince.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): When you're in class, and your Spanish teacher says that she has a *perro*, don't offer to pull it out.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Remember what Grandma always said: "The quickest way to a man's heart is through his stomach, but a dirty lap dance also works well."

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Lies, all lies.

Gemini (May 21-June

21): Go ahead and take your Valentine's Day dream date to McDonald's, but hold off on sharing your McNuggets just yet.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): If you are asked to make a movie, be smart ladies. There is no such character as a "hot girl who walks around naked all the time" in "Twelve Angry Men."

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Paying your friend \$5 to ask someone out does not constitute bringing together a possible life-long couple. Be real!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You know what, I'll just refer you to Miss Cleo.

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The Meister's Scorecard

By Trey Mendez
Sports Editor

Greetings readers, this is the Meister returning from last week's hiatus. It seems that The Rookie has taken over some of my fan base, but I refuse to let that happen. So what if they can pick games better than me? He is still mortal and incapable of possessing my great psychic abilities. I figured that if The Rookie thought he could do a better job, I would give him the opportunity to fail on his own. I don't care how you do on your predictions, Rookie, but aside from ESPN and Sports Illustrated, nobody does sports better than The Meister. Nobody. You are a young sports Jedi, but I am the Yoda in this place, so if you want to do another one of "The Rookie's Roundup," you're going to get your chance soon.

Enough of my useless ranting and self-promotion, let's get to the sports.

Speaking of ranting and self-promotion in the media, the Super Bowl just passed and I would like to congratulate the champion, regardless of who it is. Since I am writing this issue before the Super Bowl and you will be reading it after the Super Bowl, I don't know who the heck won. I have been pretty dismal in my guessing lately, but I am going to go out on a limb and pick the St. Louis Rams to beat the Patriots in a contest that will be closer than most people think but I don't think the Rams will destroy the Patriots as bad as Luke Skywalker destroyed the Death Star.

Though many people see him as the Darth Vader of the NBA, one of my biggest idols in the sports industry is Dallas Mavericks' owner Mark Cuban. Many of you may know him as the guy who recently served as manager of Dairy Queen for a day. Just last week, Cuban also served as an honorary referee for a



Harlem Globetrotters game. Aside from being a retired billionaire and down-to-earth guy, Cuban has transformed one of the notoriously worst teams in the NBA into one of the best in a few years. Thanks to Cuban, the Mavericks have the NBA's best arena and a very diverse young team. In another year, they should challenge the Lakers and Kings for supremacy. One of the coolest things about Cuban is that he is fan-oriented and is open to suggestions. If any of you want to e-mail him, his address is mark.cuban@dallasmavs.com. He reads all of his e-mail, so he might respond to you.

Now that the football season is over and the NBA is halfway done, I will probably be filling up space in future columns with useless information or whatever my crazy head comes up with. I know everyone is tired about hearing about my Cubs, but spring training is only a couple of weeks away. I can't wait! If there are any readers interested in hearing about hockey, I suggest they try ESPN.com; everybody knows that the Meister doesn't do hockey. All I can tell you is what I know and I don't know anything about hockey.

I would like to close this week's issue by encouraging everyone to attend a Scorpion home game this year. If you have read the article in this issue, you already know they have a beautiful field. Besides that, they are going to have a great season. Opening Day this Saturday and it should be lots of fun. I hope to see you there. If not, then you can read the results from all games in The Collegian.

Until next time, this is the Meister saying, may the Schwartz be with you.

Sports

Free Throwin'

Ulysses Torres (left) tosses up a free throw in last week's Intramural Free Throw Tournament as coach Brian Funk and Jose A. Zamora (far right) look on. Torres and Funk tied after the first round, hitting on 18 of 20 throws. In the second round, both competitors hit 15 of 15 before Torres edged out Funk in the last round, making nine of 10 while Funk hit on six of 10.



ALAN BROWN/COLLEGIAN

Intramurals Schedule

Date	Event
Today-Wed.	Basketball Tournament
Feb. 11	Pington Singles
Feb. 18	Pington Doubles

All events will take place at 2 p.m. in the Garza Gym.
For more information, call 544-8299.



Pirates' lefty to throw first pitch

By Trey Mendez
Sports Editor

Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Mike Gonzalez will throw out the first pitch at the Scorpions' home opener on Saturday. Gonzalez is the nephew of Scorpion Head Coach Eric Gonzalez and Assistant Coach Lee Roy Gonzalez.

Festivities begin at 10 a.m. and will include a celebration of the 1974 baseball team, the first at TSC, and presentation of the colors by the Porter High School ROTC. Other events were pending at press time, but the Opening Day ceremonies will be in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of Texas Southmost College

and the 10th anniversary of UTB.

"The Opening Day of the baseball season has become a tradition at the university," said Olivia Rivas, special assistant to UTB/TSC President Juliet Garcia. "Because of the anniversary year, we are trying to coordinate [Opening Day] with the celebration."

Athlete of the Week

By Trey Mendez
Sports Editor

Name: Brian Lopes
Classification: Sophomore
Position: Shortstop
Sport: Baseball
Age: 19
Home Country: Aruba



Began playing baseball at age 6 "I was playing soccer first, but me would always put me with bigger guys and I would always get hurt. So, they put me in baseball and I liked it."

What are your goals for this year?

"What I want right now is to win. I want to go to

the playoffs and after that go to the championship. We have the team to make it all the way, but first we need to make the playoffs; after that worry about the championship."

What approach do you take to the game?

"I want to play the game hard. Every day I take it all the way and leave everything on the field.

Whenever I finish practice or a game, I just leave everything on the field."

How would you describe yourself?

"I am consistent. I hit for average and I can hit for power, but overall I like to hit for average."

On clutch situations: "I just clear my mind and try to do my job."

Sports

The keeper of the diamond

By Trey Mendez
Sports Editor

One of the hidden treasures of UTB/TSC can be found where you least expect it. Tucked behind the East Brownsville Little League Park and running along the levee is a true diamond. It's a place where dreams are born and battles are waged. It is not some old battleground; it is Scorpion Field.

The man behind the legend is assistant baseball coach Lee Roy Gonzalez.

A few years ago, UTB/TSC didn't even have a baseball field. The team played its home games at James Pace High School, but shortly after Gonzalez arrived, plans were finalized to have a new field built for the team. Both Gonzalez, who played at the University of Texas at Austin, and his brother, head coach Eric Gonzalez, who played at Texas A&M, knew the importance of a good baseball field for recruitment efforts.

"We really needed a baseball field because of recruiting; we didn't have anything to offer kids," Lee Roy Gonzalez said. "You want them to feel at home and have them know that it's their field."

Once built, the new field still had to be maintained and that's where Gonzalez came in. Since the field was built, there have been steady improve-

ments made to it, such as a scoreboard, a press box and box seats. Gonzalez still hopes to have a larger press box, a roof over the stands and lights on the field for night games. Even though it has grown into one of the best fields in the conference, he still isn't satisfied.

"There is still a lot of work to be done," Gonzalez said.

Though he didn't learn to take care of grass in the classroom as many turf specialists do, Gonzalez got his experi-

encing a coaches convention in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 2-10. Gonzalez stopped by the booth of TurfCo, one of the best turf companies in America, who were looking to recruit auditors for their business. Shortly after, he was given a booklet with 300 questions to answer in essay form. The questions include topics on leveling a field and fertilization.

Two weeks after Gonzalez answered the questions, he called the company and found out that he had answered all 300 questions correctly and was officially a certified turf auditor, a title he is very proud of.

"[Becoming an auditor] is a big thing in my life," Gonzalez said.

The field is so impressive to others that many people stop by just to look at it.

"I have been approached by a lot of local golf course managers asking for advice on how to keep turf green," Gonzalez said. "I have even had a lot of compliments from Winter Texans who pass by and want to walk on the grass."

Golf managers and Winter Texans aren't the only ones giving compliments these



Gonzalez is a certified turf auditor.

ence through hands-on training while he was a coach at Northwood University, where he learned from other coaches.

After years of hands-on experience, Gonzalez's knowledge is still growing. While



ALIX RIVERA/COLLEGIAN

Assistant Coach Lee Roy Gonzalez says a new blend of Bermuda grass gives Scorpion Field its healthy appearance.

days.

Gonzalez said the general manager of the Rio Grande Valley White Wings, an independent minor league baseball team that plays out of Harlingen, has asked him to borrow the field for several of their games this season.

"They want to have their Opening Day on our baseball field," Gonzalez said. "They like the field and they like the aesthetics of the field."

The White Wings have asked to borrow the field for their Opening Day games May 29-31 and are willing to play up to 15 games overall. Though Gonzalez is thrilled about the attention, he would like to improve the field to accommodate a minor league team. He would like to steadily improve the facilities to include showers and restrooms.

The field's healthy, colorful grass is a new blend called Tiff 419 Bermuda Grass. The grass

resists disease and is more heat tolerant than other grasses, making it a perfect fit for Brownsville, Gonzalez said.

"[The grass] is good in South Texas weather," Gonzalez said. "The grass is so thick and so healthy that there are no weeds."

Gonzalez uses the break between the fall and spring semesters to make repairs to the field. During the season, he fertilizes every other weekend when the team plays away games.

"Turf maintenance is a year-round thing," Gonzalez said. "It's not just a baseball field, it's a tourist attraction now."

When he stands out on the field, Gonzalez feels a sense of pride knowing that he is responsible.

"I'm very happy to say, hey this is my park, this is my field and I take care of it," Gonzalez said. "This is what I like to do and I'm very honored."

The Collegian

The Collegian is the student newspaper serving The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southwest College. The newspaper is widely distributed on a campus of more than 9,000 students, and is a member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

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2002 Scorpion Baseball Team



ALIX RIVERA/COLLEGIAN

Team members are (front row, from left) Randy Almoguer, Ernie Martell, Justin Sanchez, Efrén Rivera, Charlie Suarez, Hiram Lopez, Brian Lopez, Alex Rivera, Keel Guerra and Brian Green. Back row: Dalvin Negron, Efrain Cora, Brian McGinty, Reel Garza, Nacho Orea, Marcus Townsend, Dominic Capeheart, Mike McCune, Chris Moody, Jerry Gonzalez and Julio Ruiz.